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HOUSE COMMITTEE MOVES TO REFORM ATTORNEY CONTINGENCY FEES

TALLAHASSEE – House Bill 437, relating to Contingency Fees for Private Attorneys, passed out of the Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee. Representative Eric Eisnagle (R-Orlando) is the House sponsor of the legislation.

“Today, we moved a piece of legislation that will bring transparency and fiscal prudence to contingency fee agreements,” said Representative Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland) who presented the bill in the Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee on behalf of Representative Eisnagle. “We will continue to focus on providing Florida taxpayers with a good return for their tax dollars while maintaining strict accountability in government.”

The legislation prohibits the Department of Legal Affairs from entering into contingency fee agreements with private attorneys unless it is found to be cost-effective and in the public interest. The bill caps aggregate contingency fees at \$50 million, regardless of the number of attorneys involved in the case, and it also requires specific time accounting requirements for attorneys and the means for easy public inspection of all contingency fee contracts.

The legislation now moves to the Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council before it heads to the House floor for final passage.

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